Plan would recharge aquifer with Deer Creek water

A project to transfer Deer Creek water to Little Cottonwood Canyon for recharge into the underground aquifers was in a draft statement delivered to governors of 17 western states last summer, C. Dale Duvall, U.S. Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, has revealed.

The groundwater recharge program is part of BOR's "High Plains States Goundwater Demonstration Program," and involves water injected into the Salt Lake County aquifer during the winter months for use later in the summer.

BOR said approximately 3,200 acre feet of water would be transported from Deer Creek Reservoir via the Salt Lake Aqueduct, when there is space in the aqueduct, from mid-October to mid-March. The BOR revealed that the Utah Project will be sponsored by the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District, which will pay 50 percent of the $3 million cost.

The groundwater recharge project would be another way of relieving Salt Lake County's anticipated water shortages next summer.

Recharge projects were selected by the BOR in areas having a declining water table, an available surface water supply, and a high probability of physical, chemical and economic feasibility for recharge.

All projects selected were certified as having no signficant impact on the environment when the final report on Phase I was sent to Congress in December 1987.

According to a BOR desription of the project, the demonstration would "stabilize and reverse water level declines in the principal aquifer in southeast Salt Lake County. The added recharge would aid the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District in meeting water-supply needs during periods of peak demand. The primary goal would be to create a groundwater mound during the winter months that would be utilized during the summer peak demand for municipal water by a water supplier serving a population of more than 400,000 people.

"The proposal meets the requirements of having an available surface water supply, a declining water table, and exceeds the minimum commitment of 20 percent non-Federal cost sharing. This proposal is publicly acceptable and does nto appear to have significant environmental impacts," the BOR statement declared.

"Benefits would include reduced groundwater pumping costs, recharging a decliningaquifer, and comparing costs for artifical groundwater recharge to new surface watr solutions for Salt Lake Count's future needs," the report stated.

"This proposal would be unique in that Salt Lake Aqueduct is currently fully allocated during the peak summer demand period and underutilized inthe winter months. With winter injections from the aqueduct, the current transmission system will be better utilized. This proposal would also inject and recover water in a highly urbanized area at the demand site," according to the report.

Picking the right spot important

3-1-88

By REX INFANGER
Herald Correspondent

One of the great benefits of my job as an Outdoor Writer is that I get to meet and fish with some of the outstanding fishermen in the state.

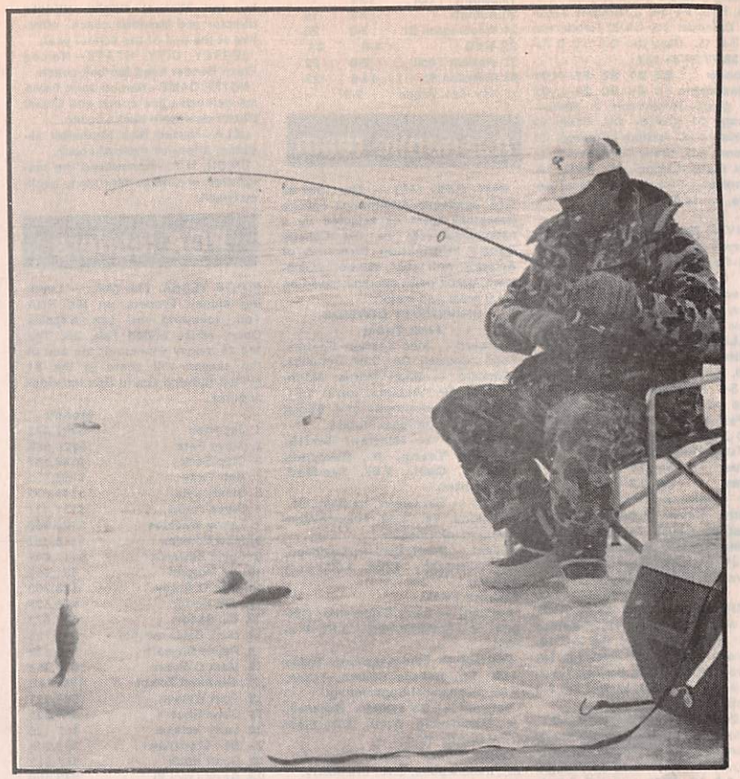
The last couple of trips I have made to Deer Creek, we have caught our share of perch, but nothing spectacular.

I mentioned this to Mike Hull, one of the people I get fishing reports from, and he said I hadn't changed my tactics for the change in the perch's pre-spawn habits. Mike said he had been getting several Perch over two pounds each trip to Deer Creek and invited me to go along.

I have fished with Mike before for Trout, Stripers, Smallmouth and Crappie and have done well every time, so I was looking forward to the trip. Mike met me at the State Park at 6:30 a.m. and we headed out on the ice.

Mike talked as we walked out to his fishing spot and explained why we were going to that particular point. Mike had scouted the area earlier and knew there was a shelf in 35 feet of water right next to a drop off that was 50 feet deep at the bottom. The drop off is part of the old stream

(See PERCH, Page 10)



Fishing in the right spot can result in success like this.

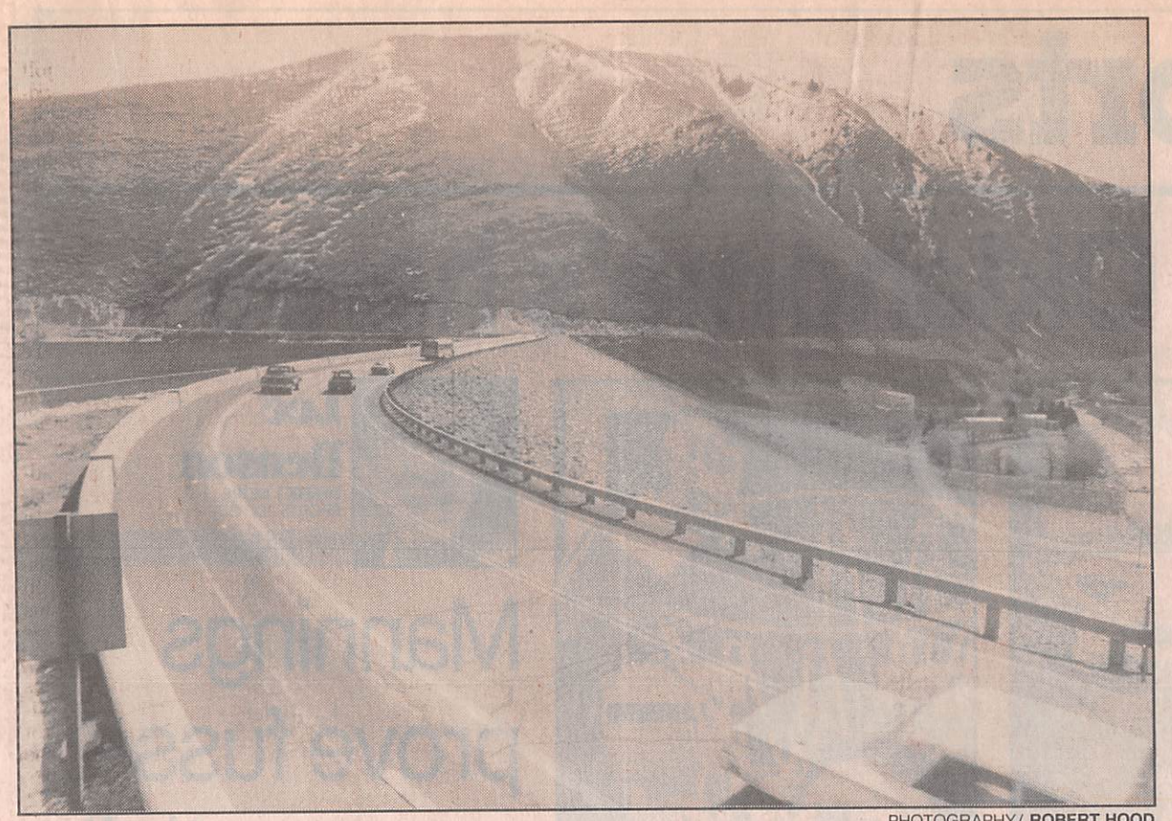
PERCH:

(Continued from Page 9)

bed. He says that is where the big females like to be this time of year.

We fished for three hours before the storm front hit and caught more than 80 perch for our party. Several of the perch weighed over a pound.

During the year most of us make adjustments for changes in fishing conditions but view ice fishing as a steady state. Mike convinced me that it is still a dynamic world under the ice and if you adapt to that world better fishing success is assured.



PHOTOGRAPHY/ **ROBERT HOOD**

Drivers travel over Deer Creek Dam, designed to handle a flow of 12,000 cubic feet per second.

FLOOD

Continued from B1

way to Utah Lake. Shoreline flooding also would occur as the lake level rises in the flood's wake.

As part of its plan, the Bureau of Reclamation is outlining its responsibilities in case of flooding as well as the responsibilities of local authorities and dam personnel.

"In most cases of potential failure, sufficient time is available for hydrologic or stability experts to evaluate the seriousness of the situation and to notify authorities of the possibility of evacuating people from the flood plain," the study says.

But, the study continues, "in the event of a sudden dam failure, the residents and authorities could have a complete lack of environmental cues, such as a rainstorm or earthquake, to use as a prediction of an impending hazard."

DESERET NEWS

Statewide

B1

Utah County

Tuesday, April 5, 1988

Bureau outlines emergency plan if dam should fail

Overflow at Deer Creek Dam is highly unlikely, officials say

By Michael Morris
Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — For 47 years, Deer Creek Reservoir has sat quietly in the southwest corner of Heber Valley — a sleeping giant that belies the destructive power of thousands of acre-feet of water held at bay by a 150-foot-high earth-filled dam.

No one expects the structure to meet the fate of Idaho's Teton Dam, but officials are preparing for disaster just the same because the possibility of dam failure can't be ruled out.

Officials say the most likely scenario is dam overflow. The dam, however, is designed to handle a flow of 12,000 cubic feet per second. Because the largest flow ever to be released has been only a fraction of that amount, officials believe an overflow is highly unlikely.

Bureau of Reclamation officials recently briefed Utah County commissioners on development of an emergency preparedness plan. The briefing gave information to authorities responsible for warning and evacuating residents. The plan is part of a nationwide effort for all federal dams where failure could endanger human life or cause property damage.

"We're doing this in a systematic order as we're required to do with all our federal dams and those administered by the bureau," said Laurel Pope, hydrologic technician with the bureau's Utah Projects Office. He said seven similar briefings have been presented across the state.

The study on Deer Creek Reservoir outlines potential hazards resulting from a variety of scenarios, including flooding caused by breaching of the dam or by the dam's failure.

County Commissioner Brent Morris said the county is organizing a countywide board to oversee emergency preparedness. The board — to include representatives of law enforcement agencies, mayors, school districts, local churches, the Red Cross and other countywide organizations — will include the Bureau of Reclamation study in developing a plan for dealing with all kinds of emergencies.

The study, including an inundation map that shows possible flood plains, reflects "conditions of an extreme nature with a very small probability of occurring and does not reflect in any way upon the integrity of Deer Creek Dam."

Nevertheless, local, state and federal governments have been instructed to formalize steps for emergency action.

"In the unlikely event of failure of Deer Creek Dam, the developed areas in Provo Canyon (Wildwood, Vivian Park, Canyon Glen and Olmsted) as well as other areas would be inundated by the flood wave and sustain heavy damage," the bureau study says.

"Study results indicate that flood flows caused by a dam failure would produce hazardous flooding along the entire reach in Provo Canyon. Flood depths and velocities along this reach would be severe, with depths ranging from 30 to 70 feet and velocities ranging from 15 to 25 mph."

U.S. 189 would be flooded if the dam failed, along with the Salt Lake and Olmsted aqueducts, Olmsted and Murdock diversion dams, pipelines, canals and bridges.

In addition, flooding would occur below the mouth of Provo Canyon.

"Flood flows along this reach would be contained in the large, natural channel extending from the mouth of Provo Canyon to the northern Provo City limits. Maximum flood depths would range from 15 to 20 feet, while velocities would be 10 to 15 mph."

Flood waters likely would fan out for several miles as they make their

Please see FLOOD on B3

Expected flows from Deer Creek Dam failure

	Distance from dam	Depth*	Velocity
Wildwood	3.4 miles	70 feet	15 mph
Vivian Park	4.8	44	17
Canyon Glen	7.9	32	17
Olmsted	10.1	48	25
Carryhurst	11.2	15	22
Golf Course	12.3	20	13
Provo	14.9	14	10

*Depth from bottom of river channel

Vol. 99 September 7, 1988 Issue 30

Wasatch Co. Fire Still Keeping Firefighters Busy

A wayward eagle may have been the unlikely culprit that started a major forest fire at the South end of Deercreek Dam. The fire has been battled over the weekend with almost a thousand acres burned by Tuesday night. The fire has required the work of 320 fire fighters working in four different crews plus bulldozer, helicopters and aerial bombers that drop fire retardant.

Witnesses reported seeing an eagle fly into electrical wires, starting the fire last Thursday that is still burning in the Wallsburg area, according to Wasatch County Fire Chief Jerry Davis.

Details of the firefighting efforts are sketchy because the officials who could release information have been at the scene where they can't easily be contacted.

Chief Davis said Wasatch County firefighters and equipment responded to the first report of the fire, and stayed on the scene for about three hours when they were relieved by U.S. Forest Service fire crews. He said other than that, Wasatch firemen have not participated in the firefighting efforts, particularly because they couldn't leave the county unprotected. However, they have been prepared to work in rotating 12-man shifts, if necessary.

More than 825 acres have burned in the area, but the fire was 50 percent contained at press time Tuesday, according to Ray Tate, reporting for the State Inter Agency Fire Center. He said there were no predictions estimating when the flames might be totally under control.

Four crews of 80 people each, plus bulldozers, a helicopter transporting water from Deer Creek Reservoir, and planes dropping fire retardant have been working to contain the blaze. One problem has been that firefighters have also been required to fight other fires in the State.

Chief Davis said Wasatch County public works employees have also been at the Wallsburg scene, helping transport weary firefighters out of the area and taking in fresh crews.

No structures have been threatened.

 Ellis Provo Canyon

USU will confer 5 honorary doctorates on June 4 during the school's centennial commencement

LOGAN — Five honorary doctorates will be awarded during Utah State University's centennial commencement on June 4. Among the recipients are two USU alumni.

Ellis L. Armstrong, who was commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation from 1968-1972 and commissioner of Public Roads from 1958-1961, received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from USU in 1936.

Robert Shaw Hoffmann, assistant secretary for research of the Smithsonian Institution, earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology in 1950. He taught at the University of Montana and at the University of Kansas.

Others to receive honorary doctorates are: Mark Evans Austad, a former U.S. ambassador to Finland and Norway; Dr. Nicholas C. Leone, former chief medical investigator for the National Institute of Health; and Shigeo Shingo, a Japanese industrialist known as one of the world's foremost experts on improving quality and productivity in manufacturing.

Ellis L. Armstrong

Robert S. Hoffmann

Mark Evans Austad

Nicholas C. Leone

Shigeo Shingo

Austad, an Ogden native, will speak during the 9 a.m. commencement ceremony in the Spectrum. He worked for Metromedia in Washington, D.C., and was chairman of the Washington Cherry Blossom Festival for two years. Austad also was chairman of President Richard Nixon's 1968 inaugural ball and vice chairman of his 1972 inaugural.

Leone is a recognized expert on fluoride and its effects on dental health, bone development and osteoporosis. He has done extensive research with veterinarians and animal scientists at USU.

Shingo founded the Institute of Manufacturing Improvement and has trained thousands of executives. His 19th book is scheduled for release this year, and he recently presented USU's Merrill Library an extensive collection of his books and those of other leaders in industrial management and productivity.

Water groups uneasy over low level at Deer Creek

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer 10-3-88

PROVO — The prospect of another dry year and the fact that the current level of Deer Creek Reservoir is 21,000 acre feet lower than last year has water-user groups concerned.

The Provo River Water Users Association called a meeting to discuss the critical situation and the impact that might result to fisheries in the Provo River if water flow from the reservoir is significantly reduced.

Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City and the Utah Department of Natural Resources were to attend the meeting Monday.

People who fish are concerned that fish habitats along the river may be damaged by reduced flows.

"If the flows are reduced it would affect the number of spawning areas available to the fish," said Steve Schmidt, a vice president of the Stonefly Society and owner of Western River Fly Fisher in Salt Lake City. "But the greatest damage would occur to the insect population. That habitat could be reduced by 60 percent."

Schmidt said even if the water flow is restored later, the food source would have been decimated and the fish would have to struggle to survive.

Last December, the same conflict arose as water associations sought to reduce flows into the Provo River from 60 to 40 cubic feet per second in anticipation of a dry year.

Damage to spawning fish and habitats was avoided when the bureau agreed to release some of its water in the reservoir to maintain 100 cfs in the river.

An environmental impact study done for the Central Utah Project states that is the minimum level allowable to maintain the river's environment and fisheries.

The bureau sold its remaining water allocation recently and does not have water to contribute to maintain the flow level of the river. However, a new water allocation year begins Nov. 1.

The water users association must main-

Please see WATER on B4

WATER

Continued from B1

tain current flows to meet irrigation demands through Oct. 15, and possibly later. When irrigation needs cease, they want to shut the gates on the dam to preserve water for next year.

"The association has the right to store the natural flow of the Provo River in the reservoir," said Jack Gardner, association superintendent. "With the current drought situation, we won't fill the reservoir and won't have a water supply if we have another dry year."

Gardner said if the gates are shut, approximately 25 cfs would flow out of the dam, with an additional 25 to 30 cfs being added by streams feeding into the river below the dam.

"The river won't dry up," Gardner said. "There will be sufficient water for the fish, they just might not reproduce like normal. Economically, it's a small loss."

Schmidt disagrees, saying such flows would reduce the river to a "trickle" and would result in a great loss to the state from recreational and tourist aspects. Schmidt said steps should be taken to conserve water instead, like limiting lawn watering.

DESERET NEWS

Statewide

Utah County

Water rights

Deer Creek dispute centers on transfer proposal, storage

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer 11-7-88

PROVO — If you're having difficulty understanding the current controversy over water rights and storage of water in Deer Creek Reservoir vs. maintenance of the Provo River's flow level, you are not alone.

News analysis

It is a complicated issue; water users and public officials are also confused. The following background may help you make sense of what is going on.

There are two basic issues: a move by the Bureau of Reclamation to store the flow of the Provo River in Deer Creek Reservoir; and a proposal by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to transfer rights to 20,000 acre-feet of water it has in Utah Lake to 20,000 acre-feet of water in Deer Creek Reservoir.

Reclamation announced last week that it was rewriting a "categorical exclusion" to an environmental impact statement done for the Central Utah Project. That document says 100 cubic feet per second of water are necessary in the Provo River to maintain fish habitat. The rewritten version of the exclusion would not set a minimal required flow. Reclamation could thus store all the flow of the Provo River in Deer Creek Reservoir.

Actually, the flow of the river would drop from 100 to 55 cfs if Reclamation goes ahead with its proposal. Little Deer Creek stream feeds into the Provo River just below the dam, adding 10 cfs to its flow. Also, the Provo River Water Users Association must release 45 cfs from the dam as part of a trade agreement with Utah Power & Light. UP&L provides three homes belonging to the Provo River Water Users Association (located in Little Deer Creek) with power in exchange for the water, which it uses in power generation.

Reclamation has said storage of Provo River water is necessary because of drought conditions, short water supplies and the possibility that Deer Creek Reservoir might not fill next spring.

Please see WATER on B2

Provo River board feels heat from other agencies

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer 11-7-88

PROVO — Members of the board of directors of the Provo River Water Users Association sat quietly in the back of the Utah County Commission chambers during a recent public meeting on proposals to reduce the flow of the Provo River.

"I don't see why the Utah County Commissioners are getting involved," Jack Gardner, association superintendent, said in an interview after the meeting. "This is a matter between the water users and the state engineer."

The water users association is also concerned about the Bureau of Reclamation's move to reduce flow of the Provo River and store water in Deer Creek Reservoir — but not for the same reasons other entities are concerned.

Gardner said the association also would like to hold the natural flow of the Provo River in Deer Creek Reservoir as insurance against what may be the third dry year in a row. But the association believes it is their right to do so, not Reclamation's.

"They do not have the right to use the reservoir without our approval," Gardner said.

The right to control the natural flow of the Provo River was given to the Provo River Water Users Association by the Bureau of Reclamation when that agency enlarged Strawberry Reservoir and made arrangements to store excess water from Strawberry in Utah Lake, Gardner said.

Gardner believes Reclamation's current action may be an attempt to invalidate the earlier agreement.

Gardner said the association has been accused of being against preservation of the fisheries and of being insensitive to the recreational and economic impacts of the Provo River. He disagrees.

"No one has mentioned Deer Creek Reservoir as a recreational resource, yet 825,000 people visited Deer Creek State Park last year," Gardner said. "And both of the best fisheries in the state are below

Please see RIVER on B2

11-7-88

RIVER

Continued from B1

dams. That's because dam (operators) maintain the flow of water (year round) and control the water during flood years."

And, Gardner said, calls for the association to conserve water are misdirected.

"As a wholesaler of water, we have to deliver water to our shareholders," Gardner said. "Those entities need to tell people to conserve."

Limited water conservation did take place this summer, said Gardner. He said golf courses and parks in Salt Lake County were asked to cut back on water consumption.

Gardner said severe water rationing will be necessary next year if drought conditions continue.

The need to conserve water and the need to maintain the river's flow level are contradictory, however.

"It's a lose, lose situation," Gardner said.

And water conservation results in lost revenues for water districts, which then raise the price of water to make up the difference, Gardner said. "People pay more for less water."

Gardner said that despite what many people think, much of its water goes to Utah County: Provo and Orem metropolitan water districts are shareholders, for example.

"They were requested to let water down the river and they refused," said Rick Cox, association assistant superintendent. "Every one wants to save water. Well, same here."

Gardner said the level in Deer Creek Reservoir is currently 55 percent of capacity.

Friday, November 11, 1988

BOR gets needed water — on paper, anyway

By Steve Fidel
Deseret News staff writer

Water purchases being sought to maintain Provo River flows have reached the amount needed, but only on paper.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Water Conservancy District have put out a one-time offer to buy irrigation water on the Provo River or in Deer Creek Reservoir for $50 an acre-foot. The bureau said it would buy as much as 9,500 acre-feet to supplement winter flows to protect the brown trout fishery on the Provo River and has now received offers for 10,000 acre-feet.

The problem, according to conservancy district engineer Sheldon Talbot, is the water that has been offered for sale is "paper water" at this point and not "wet water."

Anyone familiar with water shares, water rights, preferential rights, exchange agreements, trans-basin diversions, storage rights and in-stream flows and other issues related to water and money knows that the an acre-foot of water sold at location A doesn't necessarily amount to an acre-foot of water once it is delivered to location B.

The conservancy district staff, with the help of the State Engineer's office, has shifted its emphasis from receiving offers from interested water sellers to sorting out the legalities and technicalities of getting the water to Deer Creek, where the bureau can release it into the river to preserve the blue-ribbon fishery in the

Please see RIVER on B6

RIVER

Continued from B1

upper six miles of Provo Canyon.

Talbot said some of the water offered for sale is in the Weber basin and would have to survive a trans-basin diversion in canals to reach Deer Creek. Other water offered to the district comes from summer supplies that would have to be exchanged for winter supplies. Other water offered is available for lease or sale subject to allocations or users with higher-priority rights.

Because of drought and other mitigating factors, stored water in Deer Creek is low and the river would be also if it weren't for a National Environmental Policy Act requirement tied to the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project that mandates a 100 cubic foot per second flow of water for the fish.

Representatives of sportsmens groups are putting the squeeze on water officials to come up with enough water to at least meet an 85 cfs drought-year compromise. After that, the bureau has promised to reassess the environmental conditions on the Provo River to come up with an operating agreement that can function until Jordanelle Reservoir is completed, probably 10 years hence.

So while the engineers were trying to convert paper water to wet water, attorneys and other representatives of water and irrigation companies have been meeting two or more times daily with representatives of sportsmens groups and Rep. Wayne Owens, D-Utah, a member of the House Water and Power Subcommittee, to try to put words agreeable to everyone in a memorandum of understanding.

Once completed, the memorandum will be a non-legally binding document that sets forth the intentions of everyone involved to keep water in the river without using all of the supplies that would otherwise be used for culinary water next summer in Salt Lake County.

The first draft of the memo, written by sportsmens attorney Kenley Brunsdale, laid the blame on water developers for passing up opportunities for conservation and cooperative management.

Nick Sefakis, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake, said Thursday that draft was totally unacceptable. Joe Novak, attorney for the district and for the Provo River Water Users Association, agreed and wrote a substitute draft.

But Novak's document was not put on the table when Owens mediated a Thursday evening meeting called to weed out differences of opinion about the proposed memorandum. Owens himself had prepared a draft, and it became the working document at the meeting.

Bureau officials have said during the past week they wanted to drop the river level immediately to the proposed level of 85 cfs. Owens, Brunsdale and sportsmens representative Jeff Appel disagreed and have been able to stall the reduction until a memorandum is signed.

Novak said wording in the draft memos went beyond the scope of getting through the immediate emergency that exists this winter.

A sentence in Owens' draft called the completion of the memorandum "essential to the reauthorization and completion of the Central Utah Project."

While Owens consented to having the sentence stricken, he said one purpose of the document "is to call off the national environmental community" that has threatened law suits if the river was allowed to drop because of the adverse affect it would have on the fish.

A reauthorization bill that would raise the spending limit for the CUP to see construction finished would never clear Congress unless the national environmental community acquiesces, Owens said.

Utah's dryness often exaggerated

11-14-88

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

11-14-88

Frequently in promoting the Central Utah Project, water officials have warned that Utah is the "second most arid state in the nation," and the CUP is needed to provide water for the future.

A number of water experts brand this statement a "half truth." When all the desert land in Utah is averaged in, Utah is, indeed, the second most arid state in the nation, but the Wasatch Mountains provide an oasis in the desert.

While Utah, on an average, may receive less than 13 inches of rainfall per year, Salt Lake County annually receives between 12 and 20 inches of precipitation on the valley floor. However, in the critical watershed areas of Wasatch Mountains — the drainage that provides most of the groundwater recharge, municipal, agricultural and industrial supplies — the average annual precipitation varies between 25 and 60 inches of water per year.

By way of comparison, the eastern United States receives from 35 to 50 inches of moisture.

These figures are supplied by the U.S. Water Resource Council, which prepared the report on water resources for the years 1975 to 2000.

If Salt Lake County has water resources, which could be used for culinary

(See WATER, Page 2)

WATER:

11-14-88

(Continued from Page 1)

purposes rather than draining the Provo River, some officials wonder why it has opted to go with the more expensive Central Utah Project water. The CUP water is estimated to cost $150 per acre foot compared to $30 to $35 per acre foot for locally developed water.

Paul Van Dam, former Salt Lake County Attorney, in a 1978 report to the Salt Lake County Commission, charged that "institutional management, not water scarcity" was the number one issue in the water supply problem for Salt Lake Valley.

He referred to a "virtual crazy quilt of at least 48 separate culinary and agricultural suppliers" across Salt Lake Valley which created "shortages and watering regulations in some areas while residents in other areas waste water by allowing it to run down gutters in enormous quantity."

He said "the number of entities involved in uncoordinated, unregulated delivery of water is too large."

Van Dam's report continued: 'No entity with real regard for valley wide management of wholesale and retail culinary and agricultural supplies exists. Fragmented management produces poor planning for maximum use of agricultural water, underground waters and culinary supplies. From my perspective as a county-wide elected official, there is no rationale, other than antiquated water laws and special interest pressure, for the incredible waste of our water resources and poor utilization of our culinary distribution and canal systems."

Van Dam declared, "We have enough water for many years to come without Bonneville Unit water if institutional barriers to water supply were removed."

Van Dam continued, "Ultimately every taxpayer is the loser in poor water management since taxpayers are continually drained of funds for new, perhaps totally unnecessary federal projects."

In previous articles, alternatives to tapping Provo River as a source of water for the cities of south Salt Lake County were discussed. Additional sources would be from several small dams along the Jordan River. The quality of this water would limit its use for domestic purposes, but it would be suitable for many industrial and commerical uses, or could be used for exchange.

Willard Bay Reservoir has large quantities of unsold water derived from Ogden and Weber River sources. Large quantities of water also flow into Great Salt Lake from the Weber River system. It is estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 acre feet of unappropriated water is in the Bear River system.

Water conservation methods, including dual water systems, could also save culinary water.

Another alternative, although costly at present, would be desalinization of the Great Salt Lake water. Inflow from its tributaries has been estimated at 2.1 million acre feet.

By tying into the CUP as a source of water for the communities served, the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District gained a couple of advantages. First, the Bureau of Reclamation has the responsibility of obtaining rights for the water it will furnish the district. Second, 12 counties are involved in the CUP and will have responsibility for repaying the federal government for the facilities constructed.

Provo River may be lowered today

11-14-88

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

The flow of the Provo River may be reduced to 85 cubic feet per second today, if agencies involved are able to sign a memorandum of understanding promoted by U.S. Rep. Wayne Owens.

When the flow is reduced, the river will be closed to fishing below Deer Creek Dam because the lower flow will make the fish more vulnerable.

Last Friday, all parties involved met in Salt Lake City to sign the agreement, but at the last minute they learned Sen. Jake Garn had requested a delay until he had an opportunity over the weekend to review the memorandum.

Various agency representatives met all last week in an effort to come to an agreement that would maintain sufficient water in the river to preserve the Class A fishery, but at the same time allow Salt Lake water interests to store more water in Deer Creek Reservoir for next year's use.

Although the agreement was not signed, Bureau of Reclamation officials and Dee Hansen, director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, proposed that the river flow be reduced immediately.

Owens declined, pointing out that he had received authorization from Chairman George Miller of the House Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, to waive a 48-hour notice of stream flow reduction, but only on condition that the memorandum of understanding was signed.

The Bureau of Reclamation last week offered to pay $50 per acre foot for any water that could be put into the Provo River to guarantee the stream flow. The BOR is rewriting its categorial exclusion on the river and will no longer guarantee any minimum stream flow.

Agencies expected to sign the memorandum are the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Provo River Water Users Association, Provo City, Utah County Commission, Bureau of Reclamation, Stonefly Society and Utah Wildlife Leadership Coalition, Utah Roundtable of Sportsmen and Conservationists, U.S. Rep. Howard Nielson, R-Utah,Owens, D-Utah, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Provo River Canal Commission.